

RESOLUTION NO. 11-934

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Mary McCray Chambers, distinguished citizen and longtime resident of Huntsville, Alabama, born on August 10, 1943, departed this life on October 23, 2011, at the age of 93; and,

WHEREAS, those left to cherish Mary's memory include daughter, Vivian Chambers Aboko-Cole Hicks, M.D., five grandchildren, Sgt. William V. Aboko-Cole, U.S. Army, Dr. Mary Ophelia Aboko-Cole, Jonathan Nathaniel Aboko-Cole, Gregory L. Hicks and Sharon Yvonne Hicks; two great-grandchildren, Bayleigh Yvette Hicks and Brandon Gregory Hicks; two brothers, Nathaniel H. McCray and John H. McCray, Sr., and two sisters, Ann McCray Penick and Thelma Snoddy; and,

WHEREAS, Mary McCray Chambers was an AAMU legend and staunch supporter of higher education. This was evidenced by her affiliation with Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University for more than 70 years; and,

WHEREAS, Mary McCray Chambers, completed her undergraduate studies at AAMU in 1943, proudly graduating Magna Cum Laude. She completed her Master's degree at Cornell University. Her career at AAMU includes: Acting Dean of Women and Assistant Professor of Biology, coordinator of AAMU's Nuclear Science Education Program; Program Manager of the AAMU Madison-Jackson Child Development Program; and other worthy service. She diligently continued her commitment to her beloved Alma Mater following her retirement in 2003; and,

WHEREAS, Mary McCray Chambers served as Vice-President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; An international service organization that was founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-lettered organization established by African-American college-educated women dedicated to improving the quality of life for citizens worldwide and promoting peace; and,

WHEREAS, Mary McCray Chambers demonstrated for decades her deep appreciation for historically black colleges and universities, and set out on a mission to preserve the history of her endeared Alabama A&M University. For more than 47 years, she lived on Chase Road on the southern edge of the A&M campus. She and the late Dr. R.D. Morrison, the longtime president of Alabama A&M University, were original homeowners located on Chase Road. Her home was full of boxes of old campus documents and other A&M artifacts. In 1986, Mary was cited for outstanding service to A&M. She called her home a museum and

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archives. She stated in 2002; "any time we want something, we don't have to run around to find it;" and,

WHEREAS, Mary McCray Chambers faithfully kept alive the traditions of her Alma Mater, from May Day to Founder's Day, and she involved the entire campus community and beyond in the celebrations . She has received numerous honors and awards throughout her career for her professional service. She has left a legacy of faithfulness to God, her church, her family and community; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, recognize and gratefully acknowledge Mrs. Mary McCray Chambers for her hard work making our community a better place. We extend our heartfelt condolences to family and friends. Her absence will be felt as strongly as her presence.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, hereby orders that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a copy be furnished to her family.

ADOPTED this the _____ day of _____, 2011

President of the City Council
of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the _____ day of _____, 2011.

Mayor of the City Council
of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

